

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. In the October 16, 2007 Office action, the examiner stated that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species, and required applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The examiner further stated that no claims appear to be generic. In view of the foregoing, the examiner required election of one of the following patentably distinct species:

- I. Fig. 6
- II. Fig. 7
- III. Fig. 10
- IV. Fig. 16
- V. Fig. 21
- VI. Fig. 25
- VII. Fig. 26

II. Response

In making a response to the October 16, 2007 election requirement, the examiner noted that a response must include **(i) an election of a species to be examined**, even though the requirement may be traversed and **(ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species**.